State Of South Dakota

EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION FOR VALOR

Office Of The Governor

On Saturday, July 3, 1982, a gentleman from New Jersey, Allen Merclean, suffered a heart attack and went into a full caridac arrest while behind the wheel of a moving vehicle on a busy street in Rapid City.

In response to a radio dispatch, Rapid City Police Officer Rich Fox rushed to the corner of 8th and St. Patrick to assist an ambulance on a full cardiac arrest call.

On arriving at the scene, Fox assessed the situation with lightning speed. He determined that Merclean had to be moved quickly to the awaiting ambulance. With the assistance of a paramedic, Officer Fox then administered more extensive revival techniques.

Through it all, Rich Fox continued to perform CPR on the unconscious man. Although he became very exhausted, he never gave up the fight for the 59-year-old man's life. Eventually, after much hard work and persistence, Merclean's vital signs began to grow stronger and his heart started to beat strong and regularly. Once he was out of grave danger, he was rushed to Regional Hospital. The weary Officer Fox than took responsibility for young Kathy Merclean by driving her in his patrol car to the hospital.

Emergency room doctor Gregory Iverson was quick to point out that the basic life support instituted at the scene of the accident was instrumental in saving Allen Merclean. Fox's quick wits and polished professionalism have given new life and hope to a man who was trapped in a desperate situation. And although Officer Rich Fox may have felt he was only doing his duty, he is truly a hero and his heroic act must not go unrewarded.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the valor of

RICH FOX

and I want to thank him for his dedication and endurance in this tenuous and tense emergency situation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, In Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-sixth Day of August, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Two

WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

ALICE KUNDERT, SECRETARY OF STATE

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